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PATENT  
USSN 10/522,459  
ATTY. DOCKET NO. VAJP-40008

## Remarks

By the present amendment, applicant is amending the claims to define, now even more clearly, applicant's invention residing in:

-- An energy absorbing and/or spreading garment including:

an inner layer,

an outer layer,

a plurality of resilient panels of arcuate cross-section housed between the inner layer and the outer layer of the garment, each of the plurality of resilient panels arranged to overlap and slide relative to at least one adjacent panel of the plurality of resilient panels to spread and/or absorb energy upon impact; and

a plurality of channels or pockets between the inner layer and the outer layer, each of the plurality of channels housing one or more of the plurality of resilient panels, the one or more of the plurality of resilient panels being freely movable in the channels or pockets.—

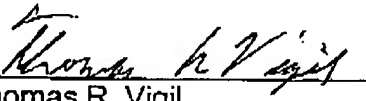
Applicant submits that the above amended claim 1 is now clear and definite and overcomes and obviates the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. Section 112.

For the foregoing reasons, applicant submits that the amended claims are clear of the art of record and that the application is now in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that end is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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